

Dear Chairman
Martin:

We should have
learned something
about the one size
fits all results of
allowing Clear
Channel to take over
a huge number of our
radio stations and
just about every
major city's live
concert promotion
company. There is
no room for
creativity any more.

We cannot find what
little still lives
out there because
few small independent
radio stations still
exist outside of
public radio.

Saying yes to the
take over of our
media by giant
megcorporations is
not a good thing!

I am writing to
challenge the
Comcast/Time
Warner/Adelphia
merger (FCC Docket
No. 05-192) and the
AT&T/BellSouth
merger (FCC Docket

No. 06-74). Allowing the largest telecommunications company and the two largest cable companies and in the United States to grow even larger does not serve the public interest.

The concentration of media power is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are increasingly falling under the control of a handful of giant corporations. The cost of broadband service also remains out of reach for many households. Americans are hungry for more competition in services. However, these mergers will only starve Americans of this needed competition.

Allowing AT&T to combine with BellSouth will give

the top three
broadband providers
control of over half
of all broadband
connections in the
country. At the same
time, the Time
Warner/Comcast/Adelphia
merger will give
Comcast and Time
Warner increased
power over entire
regions of the
United States,
allowing rates to
rise even as the
digital divide
continues to grow.

The FCC should block
these transactions
or impose strict
conditions to
protect free speech
and competition
under its "public
interest standard."
If the FCC decides
to allow either of
these mergers, it
should require the
following
conditions:

1. Subscribers must
be able to choose
from competitive
Internet Service
Providers ("open

access"). The FCC should also ensure that these companies cannot discriminate against any Internet content or rival service and that every service will be treated exactly the same ("Network Neutrality").

2. Companies must be required to sell broadband access separate from video and telephone service, and at the same price ("naked broadband" or "unbundling").

3. Any subscriber must be able to connect any device to the network (such as a Wi-Fi router) that does not harm the network.

4. Take steps to protect public access programming ("PEG"). Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of

communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments. Likewise, telecommunications giants — like AT&T — are trying to eliminate the remaining vestiges of effective local oversight and control altogether.

5. Independent programmers must be able to reach subscribers. We are required to buy channels we don't want or need because providers of video service bundle them together.

6. Any company that owns both programming and video systems should be required to provide competitors with access to their regional sports and

other programming
needed to offer
competing services,
so consumers will
still have real
choices.

In conclusion, I ask
the FCC to consider
the interests of the
people like me who
pay the cable,
telephone and
broadband bills and
watch the
programming. In
order to get some
kind of variety good
reporting, I also
feel obliged to pay
for public radio and
TV. Many of us
already have enough
trouble trying to
afford broadband or
cable TV. Please
don't make it even
harder for us to
find competitors, or
make it easier for
Comcast, Time Warner
and AT&T to raise
prices or block
local and
independent voices.